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FCC Mail Room

**IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT****P.O. BOX 90 McGRATH, ALASKA 99627 (907) 524-3599x224 FAX (907) 524-3217**

June 17, 2010

FCC

Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**REQUEST for REVIEW**

Re: CC Docket No. 02-6  
Iditarod Area School District  
BEN #145590  
471 Application # 662363  
Appeal of FRN 1089041 and 1809043  
Services provided by GCI  
SPIN # 143001199

IASD is appealing the January 26, 2010, Universal Service Administrative Company Schools & Libraries Division (SLD) funding commitment decision to reduce the amount of eligible service funding due to a caching function in our service provider's on-premise equipment.

IASD's funding was reduced for FRNs 1809041 and 1809043 ".to remove: cache server functionality." The caching servers in question are owned by our service provider, GCI Communication Corp, and are located at each of the District's seven schools. This on-premise equipment is necessary for the provision of service to these schools since each is located in a remote Alaska community served only by satellite communications. There are no land-line communications to any of the District's served communities. Each school has a satellite dish with corresponding equipment necessary to deliver service. The on-premise equipment has never been an issue before as it has always passed the Tennessee Decision criteria for determining whether the equipment was internal to the individual school's LAN or external and necessary for the provision of service. It has always been found to be the latter.

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For this funding year SLD's Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) asked questions related to the eligibility of the service provider's on-premise equipment as if the equipment was part of the LAN. GCI responded to the District's request for information in order for the District to reply to the PIA request (attached IASD PIA ltr 2009-11-20). In GCI's response they stated the on-premise server had a 20% caching function. PIA then asked for cost allocation information (attached IASD PIA ltr 2009-12-08) on the caching functionality of the server. GCI responded that the servers cost \$1,380.00 per device. Allocating the cost over the 36-month term of our contract meant that the amortized cost of a server was \$38.33 per month. Allocating out the 20% "ineligible" caching functionality would mean an "ineligible" portion of \$7.67 per month per location.

The Tennessee Decision notes the eligibility of a server, particularly a caching server, is fully eligible when used by a service provider and its costs may be included in the service delivery price (FCC 99-216, §41, last sentence). So why is PIA now asking for cost allocation on service provider equipment? We believe the caching functionality of the service provider owned and maintained on-premise device is not an issue for cost allocation since it is outside of the school's LAN and that caching is a fundable service if provided by the service provider and not servers internal to the applicant's LAN. Therefore we believe no reduction should occur and the funding should be approved as submitted.

Due to deadlines, I have already submitted our form 486. I request reconsideration of the above two funding requests based on the documentation submitted with this appeal.

Please contact me by email: [iharrington@iditarodsd.org](mailto:iharrington@iditarodsd.org) or by phone at 907-524-3033 x224.

Sincerely,

  
Isabelle Harrington  
Business Manager

Isabelle Harrington  
Iditarod Area School District  
P. O. Box 90  
McGrath, AK 99627

Billed Entity Number: 145590  
Form 471 Application Number: 662363  
Form 486 Application Number:



**Universal Service Administrative Company**  
Schools & Libraries Division

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**Administrator's Decision on Appeal – Funding Year 2009-2010**

May 11, 2010

Isabelle Harrington  
Iditarod Area School District  
P. O. Box 90  
McGrath, AK 99627

Re: Applicant Name: IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Billed Entity Number: 145590  
Form 471 Application Number: 662363  
Funding Request Number(s): 1809041, 1809043  
Your Correspondence Dated: March 25, 2010

After thorough review and investigation of all relevant facts, the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has made its decision in regard to your appeal of USAC's Funding Year 2009 Funding Commitment Decision Letter for the Application Number indicated above. This letter explains the basis of USAC's decision. The date of this letter begins the 60 day time period for appealing this decision to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). If your Letter of Appeal included more than one Application Number, please note that you will receive a separate letter for each application.

Funding Request Number(s): 1809041, 1809043  
Decision on Appeal: **Partially Approved**  
Explanation:

- Your appeal has brought forward persuasive information that your appeal should be partially approved for the reasons cited below.

During the Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review process it was determined that the above funding requests contained ineligible caching. USAC gave you the opportunity to provide a cost allocation with regard to the ineligible caching and on December 22, 2009 that cost allocation was provided. Based on your documentation provided, 20% of the requested server(s) function is for the ineligible caching. In your appeal, you state that the funding requests were incorrectly reduced by the annual ineligible amount instead of the monthly ineligible amount. You also state that the servers are owned by the service

provider and the equipment is necessary to the provision of service for the schools and feel that the caching is therefore, fully eligible in this case.

For FRN: 1809041, during the PIA review you requested that \$7.67 be reduced from the recurring (monthly) amount for one site which would result in the annual ineligible amount being \$92.04 for this request.

For FRN: 1809043, during the PIA review you requested that \$7.67 be reduced from the recurring (monthly) amount for six sites (\$46.02) which would result in the annual ineligible amount being \$552.24 for this request.

During the appeal review process it was determined that the included caching is ineligible per the rules of this Support Mechanism. It was also determined that the allocated as ineligible pre-discount recurring (monthly) amounts of \$7.67 and \$46.02 that you had provided to USAC (during the PIA review) will be removed from the funding requests. ~~The funding will be increased accordingly.~~

- FCC rules provide that funding may be approved only for eligible products and services. See 47 C.F.R. secs. 54.502, 54.503. The USAC website contains a list of eligible products and services. See USAC website, [www.usac.org/sl](http://www.usac.org/sl), Eligible Services List. FCC rules further require that if 30% or more of the applicant's funding request includes ineligible products and/or services, then the funding request must be denied, otherwise the funding request will be reduced accordingly. See 47 C.F.R. sec. 54.504(d). The FCC's Aiken County Public Schools Order directed USAC to permit the applicant 15 calendar days from the date of receipt of notice in writing by USAC to revise its funding request to remove the ineligible services or allow the applicant to provide additional documentation to show why the services are eligible. See Requests for Review of the Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Aiken County Public Schools Aiken, SC, et al., Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, File No. SLD-397612, et al., CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 22 FCC Rcd 8735, FCC 07-61 para. 11 (May 8, 2007).

Since the Administrator's Decision on Appeal modifies funding for your application, USAC will issue a ~~Revised Funding Commitment Decision Letter (RFCDL)~~ to you and to each service provider that will provide the services approved for discounts in this letter. USAC will issue the RFCDL to you as soon as possible. If your appeal included Internal Connections at a discount level that has not yet been approved for funding, an RFCDL will be issued for those funding requests once USAC determines if there will be sufficient funds to make commitments at your discount level. ~~The RFCDL will inform you of the precise dollar value of your approved funding request(s).~~ As you await the RFCDL, you may share this Administrator's Decision on Appeal with the relevant service provider(s).



If the original FCDL approved funding in part for the services covered by this appeal, the 120 day deadline for filing Forms 486 is determined based on the date of the original FCDL that approved funding for the request(s). However, if the original FCDL denied funding for the services covered by this appeal, ~~Forms 486 cannot be filed until you have~~

~~received your REPORT~~ If your appeal has been approved, but funding has been reduced or denied, you may appeal these decisions to either USAC or the FCC. For appeals that have been denied in full, partially approved, dismissed, or canceled, you may file an appeal with the FCC. You should refer to CC Docket No. 02-6 on the first page of your appeal to the FCC. Your appeal must be received or postmarked within 60 days of the date on this letter. Failure to meet this requirement will result in automatic dismissal of your appeal. If you are submitting your appeal via United States Postal Service, send to: FCC, Office of the Secretary, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Further information and options for filing an appeal directly with the FCC can be found in the "Appeals Procedure" posted in the Reference Area of the SLD section of the USAC web site or by contacting the Client Service Bureau. We strongly recommend that you use the electronic filing options.


We thank you for your continued support, patience and cooperation during the appeal process.


Schools and Libraries Division  
Universal Service Administrative Company

cc: Isabelle Harrington

From:  **Isabelle Harrington** 

Subject: Re: Appeal of Form 471 # 662363 (Iditarod Area School District)

To:  "ProgCompliance" <ProgCompliance@sl.universalservice.or...>

Cc:  Erate

For FY2009 there were no one-time charges billed for contract SA-259 which FRNs 1809041 and 1809043 cover. The one-time charges for SA-259 were billed in the FY2008 funding year.

1. FRN 1727615 - McGrath SA259
  - a. What is the one time fee of \$500 for?

The one-time charge is to cover the estimated cost of the installation and configuration of the on-premise equipment, earth station equipment, and GCI core to meet the contracted service delivery requirements at the community school.

2. FRN 1727665 - SA259 - all other sites  
a. What is the one time fee for \$3000 for?

The one-time charge is to cover the estimated cost of the installation and configuration of the on-premise equipment, earth station equipment, and GCI core to meet the contracted service delivery requirements at the six community schools.

Let me know if additional information is needed.

Isabelle Harrington, Business Manager  
Iditarod Area School District  
PO Box 90, McGrath, Alaska 99627  
(907) 524-3033 x224 524-3217 (fax)

**"ProgCompliance" <ProgCompliance@sl.universalservice.org> writes:**

[REDACTED]

|

[REDACTED]

|

[REDACTED]

|

[REDACTED]

|

[REDACTED]

|

[REDACTED]

|

[REDACTED]

|

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





100 South Jefferson Road  
Whippany, New Jersey 07981

Fax 973-599-6525

**Universal Service Administration Company**  
Schools & Libraries Division

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**FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET**

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To: Isabelle Harrington  
Fax: 1-907-524-3217  
Subject: Appeal of Form 471 # 662363 (Iditarod Area School District)  
From: ProgCompliance  
Date: April 13, 2010  
Time: 11:08:25 AM

YOU SHOULD RECEIVE 2 PAGE(S), INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET. IF YOU DO NOT  
RECEIVE ALL THE PAGES, PLEASE CALL

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Attn: Isabelle Harrington (**RESPONSE DUE DATE: APRIL 28, 2010**)

I am in receipt of your appeal for the above application, specifically **FRNs 1809041 and 1809043**, please respond to the following

For **FRN 1809041**, please provide a detailed description of what the one-time charge of \$500.00 includes.

For **FRN 1809043**, please provide a detailed description of what the one-time charge of \$3,000.00 includes.

During the PIA Review, you indicated the following equipment, Prodelin 2.4m reflector (satellite dish), 4 Watt Comtech EF Outdoor Receive Unit/Block Up, Converter iDirect Satellite, 5100 Modem, Cisco 2811, CPE Router Iron Systems Server, and APC 750 UPS, is located at each school site. Are any of the charges above or the recurring

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charges for this equipment?

Please fax or email the requested information to my attention. If you have any questions or you do not understand what we are requesting, please feel free to contact me.

It is important that we receive all of the information requested **within 15 calendar days** so we can complete our review. **Failure to respond may result in a reduction or denial of funding. If you need additional time to prepare your response, please let me know as soon as possible.**

Should you wish to cancel your Form 471 application, or any of your individual funding requests, please clearly indicate in your response that it is your intention to cancel an application or funding request(s). Include in any cancellation request the Form 471 application number and/or funding request number(s), and the complete name, title and signature of the authorized individual.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support of the Universal Service Program.

Sincerely,

Kelly Miller  
Program Compliance  
973-581-5115 (phone)  
973-599-6525 (fax)  
[kmiller@sl.universalservice.org](mailto:kmiller@sl.universalservice.org)

Mailing address.

Solix Inc.  
30 Lanidex Plaza  
Parsippany, NJ 07054



**Administrator's Appeal Acknowledgement Letter**  
(Funding Year 2009: 07/01/09-06/30/10)

March 26, 2010

Isabelle Harrington  
Iditarod Area School District  
PO Box 90  
McGrath, Alaska 99627

Subject: Iditarod Area School District

Isabelle Harrington,


The Universal Service Administrative Company has received your correspondence dated March 25, 2010, on March 26, 2010 regarding the 2009 funding decision of your Form 471 Application Number 662363 - FRNs 1089041 & 1809043.

These are the steps that will now follow:

1. We will review your correspondence carefully to identify the specific issue(s) it raises.
2. We will consult the Program Integrity Assurance records and all supporting documentation for the application. Our goal is to determine whether the program rules were administered appropriately in processing your application.
3. Once the review process is completed we will respond in writing and state whether your appeal is approved, denied or approved in part. A Revised Funding Commitment Decision Letter will follow for any approved appeal resulting in additional discounts for your application. Funds have been set aside to implement funding decisions for appeals approved by the SLD and/or the Federal Communications Commission.

We will perform an in-depth review of your appeal. Our goal is to respond to you as promptly as possible. We thank you in advance for your patience as we handle your appeal with the care and attention it deserves.

Universal Service Administrative Company

From:  "Appeals" <appeals@solixinc.com>

Thursday, March 25, 2010 9:21:34 PM  

Subject: Appeal

To:  **Isabelle Harrington**

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Thank you for submitting your correspondence by e-mail to the Schools & Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company.  
This message serves as a receipt confirmation of your submission.

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## **Iditarod Area School District**

P.O. Box 90, McGrath, Alaska 99627 (907) 524-3033 ext 224 Fax: (907) 524-3217

Email: [iharrington@iditarodsd.org](mailto:iharrington@iditarodsd.org)

# **Memo**

**Date:** March 25, 2010

**To:** Appeal

**From:** Isabelle Harrington, Business Manager

**Re:** BEN# 145590, 471 Application # 662363, FRN 1089041 & 1099043

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A copy of our appeal regarding the above referenced FRN's follows. This appeal was also submitted via e-mail.



# **IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**P.O. BOX 90 McGRATH, ALASKA 99627 (907) 524-3599x224 FAX (907) 524-3217**

March 25, 2010

Letter of Appeal  
Schools & Libraries Division – Correspondence Unit  
30 Lanidex Plaza West  
PO Box 685  
Parsippany, NJ 07054-0685

## **LETTER OF APPEAL**

Re: CC Docket No. 02-6  
Iditarod Area School District  
BEN #145590  
471 Application # 662363  
Appeal of FRN 1089041 and 1809043  
Service provided by GCI  
SPIN#143001199

The Iditarod Area School District (IASD) is appealing the January 26, 2010, funding commitment decision to reduce the amount of eligible service funding. We are appealing this on two levels. First, that there was a decision to reduce any funding, and second, the resulting reduction in funding was inconsistent with the data provided to Program Integrity Assurance (PIA).

IASD's funding was reduced for FRNs 1809041 and 1809043 "...to remove: cache server functionality..." The caching servers in question are owned by our service provider, GCI Communication Corp, and are located at each of the District's seven schools. This on-premise equipment is necessary to the provision of service to these schools since each is located in a remote Alaska community only served by satellite communications. There are no land-line communications to any of the District's served communities. Each school has a satellite dish with corresponding equipment necessary to deliver service. The on-premise equipment has never been an issue before as it has

always passed the Tennessee Decision criteria for determining whether the equipment was internal to the individual school's LAN or external and necessary to the provision of service. It has always been found to be the latter.

For this funding year PIA asked questions related to the eligibility of the service provider's on-premise equipment as if the equipment was part of the LAN. GCI responded to the District's request for information to reply to the PIA request (attached IASD PIA ltr 2009-11-20). In GCI's response they stated the on-premise server had a 20% caching function. PIA then asked for cost allocation information (attached IASD PIA ltr 2009-12-08) on the caching functionality of the server. GCI responded that the servers cost \$1,380.00 per device. Allocating the cost over the 36-month term of our contract meant that the amortized cost of a server was \$38.33 per month. Allocating out the 20% "ineligible" caching functionality would mean an "ineligible" portion of \$7.67 per month per location.

The Tennessee Decision notes the eligibility of a server, particularly a caching server, is fully eligible when used by a service provider and its costs may be included in the service delivery price (FCC 99-216, §41, last sentence). So why is PIA now asking for cost allocation on service provider equipment? This is the basis for our primary appeal which is the caching functionality of the service provider owned and maintained on-premise device is not an issue for cost allocation since it is outside of the school's LAN. Therefore we believe no reduction should occur and the funding should be approved as submitted.

The funding commitments received on January 21, 2010, for FRNs 1809041 and 1809043, have the comments, "MR1: The dollars requested were reduced to remove: cache server functionality for \$92.04. <><><><> MR2: The FRN was modified from \$5,350/mo to \$5,257.96/mo to agree with the applicant documentation" and "MR1: The dollars requested were reduced to remove: cache server functionality for \$552.24. <><><><> MR2: The FRN was modified from \$25,500/mo to \$24,947.76/mo to agree with the applicant documentation" respectively. FRN 1809041 is for Internet Access for the McGrath school, a single entity. The documentation provided identified the caching server allocation amount as \$7.67 per month but the FRN reduces the amount by \$92.04 per month, or 12 times \$7.67. FRN 1809043 is for Internet Access for the six other community schools in the district. The documentation provided identified the caching server allocation amount as \$7.67 per month per location, or \$46.02 for all six school, but the FRN reduces the amount by \$552.24 per month, or 12 times \$46.02. Again, we disagree with any reduction, but we also must disagree with the math that was used to reduce the funding amounts in FRNs 1809041 and 1809043 in that it is 12 times too high.

Due to deadlines, I have already submitted our form 486. I request reconsideration of the above two funding requests based on the documentation submitted with this appeal.

Please contact me by email: [iharrington@iditarodsd.org](mailto:iharrington@iditarodsd.org) or by phone at 907-524-3033 x224.

Sincerely,

  
Isabelle Harrington  
Business Manager



## Schools and Libraries Division

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Nov 20, 2009

Isabelle Harrington  
IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Telephone:  
Application Number

(907) 5243033 Ext 224  
662363

### **Response Due Date: Dec 7, 2009**

The Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) team is in the process of reviewing all Funding Year 2009 Form 471 Applications for schools and libraries discounts to ensure that they are in compliance with the rules of the Universal Service program. We are currently in the process of reviewing your Funding Year 2009 Form 471 Application. To complete our review, we need some additional information. The information needed to complete the review is listed below

I.)

Based on the documentation provided it appears that FRN(s) 1809041, 1809043, 1809044, includes charges associated with the following on-premise equipment:

**Prodelin 2.4m reflector (satellite dish)**  
**4 Watt Comtech EF Outdoor Receive Unit/Block Up Converter iDirect Satellite**  
**5100 Modem**  
**Cisco 2811**  
**CPE Router Iron Systems Server**  
**APC 750 UPS.**

The FCC has indicated that equipment at the applicant site is presumed to be Internal Connections, but that this presumption can be overcome in certain circumstances. In order for us to evaluate your request, please provide the following information.

Please provide a configuration diagram of the products and services proposed. The diagram should include the on-premise equipment requested as a part of Internet Access or Telecommunications Services, and all other components, including Internal Connections, which directly connect to these components. In addition, the diagram should indicate the specific demarcation(s) points per service between the applicant's local communication facilities and the telecommunications or Internet Access service.

II.)

For FRN(s) 1809041, 1809043, 1809044, please provide the complete model # for the Cisco 2811 (i.e. C2811-VSEC-CCME/K9).



III.)

For FRN(s) **1809041, 1809043, 1809044**, is the 5100 modem a component of a shared infrastructure available to multiple users?

\_\_\_ Yes or \_\_\_ No.

If NO, then please explain the nature and function of the modem.

IV.)

For FRN(s) **1809041, 1809043, 1809044**, the documentation provided in the Item 21 Attachments was not sufficient to determine the eligibility of your request for **Iron Systems Servers**.

1. Please provide a description that indicates the uses for the requested server(s), including the make and model number if this information has not already been supplied.
2. Circle the function(s) of the requested servers. Include the percentage (if any) used for items (e) through (i), which are ineligible functions, so that they may be cost allocated to ensure funding is only requested for eligible uses.
  - a. DHCP Server
  - b. Domain name Server (DNS)
  - c. E-Mail Server
  - d. Proxy Server
  - e. \_\_\_ % Application Server (e.g., providing application software to end users)
  - f. \_\_\_ % Archive Server
  - g. \_\_\_ % Database Server,
  - h. \_\_\_ % Data Warehouse Server (including storage of non-email end user files)
  - i. \_\_\_ % Caching Server
  - j. \_\_\_ % Print Server
  - k. Remote Access Server (also called a Communications Server)
  - l. Web Server – what is the function; to provide information to users of the Internet, or to provide substantial software applications, database functions or storage of end user files?
  - m. Terminal Server – terminal servers are eligible to the extent that the use meets the other eligible server types. The term "terminal server" is not descriptive enough. What is the specific function? Please select the appropriate functions from a-k above.

For any ineligible purposes, you may provide a cost allocation so that funding is only requested for the eligible portion.

For more information, please refer to the Eligible Services List at our website - <http://www.universalservice.org/sl/about/eligible-services-list.aspx>.

See also "Cost Allocation for Products and Services" available at <http://www.universalservice.org/sl/applicants/step06/cost-allocation-guidelines-products-services.aspx>.

Please fax or email the requested information to my attention. If you have any questions or you do not understand what we are requesting, please feel free to contact me.

**It is important that we receive all of the information requested within 15 calendar days so we can complete our review. Failure to respond may result in a reduction or denial of funding. If you need additional time to prepare your response, please let me know as soon as possible.**

Should you wish to cancel your Form 471 application(s), or any of your individual funding requests, please clearly indicate in your response that it is your intention to cancel an application or funding request(s). Include in any cancellation request the Form 471 application number(s) and/or funding request number(s), and the complete name, title and signature of the authorized individual.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support of the Universal Service Program.

Nicholas C. Bazaral  
Associate Manager- PIA  
Schools & Libraries  
Phone# 973-581-7686  
Fax#973-599-6521  
E-Mail: [nbazara@sl.universalservice.org](mailto:nbazara@sl.universalservice.org)

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## Schools and Libraries Division

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Dec 8, 2009

Isabelle Harrington  
IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Telephone:  
Application Number

(907) 5243033 Ext 224  
662363

**Response Due Date:** Dec 15, 2009

You were recently sent a written request for additional information needed by the Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) team to review your Funding Year 2009 Form 471 application to ensure that it is in compliance with the rules of the Universal Service program. This is a reminder that the response due date is approaching. To date, none of the requested information has been received. The information needed to complete the review is listed below.

I.)

For FRN **1809041, 1809043, 1809044**, the documentation provided in the Item 21 Attachments indicates that the following ineligible items, ***ineligible 20% for function of Caching Server*** were included in your request. The rules of this program require that charges associated with ineligible items be identified in order to determine the eligibility of the request. **Please provide documentation identifying the charges associated with the ineligible items that were identified above for EACH FRN.**

If you are unable to identify the costs associated with the ineligible items, the entire amount may be considered ineligible. Any documentation provided should clearly identify any ineligible charges that were cost allocated out of your request.

For further information, see "Cost Allocation Guidelines for Products and Services" located in the Reference Area of the USAC Web site at: <http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/step06/cost-allocation-guidelines-products-services.aspx>

It is important that we receive all of the information requested so the PIA team can complete its review. Please fax or email the requested information to my attention. If you have any questions, do not understand what we are requesting, or feel that you have already responded, please feel free to contact me.

**If we do not receive the requested information by Dec 15, 2009, your application(s) will be reviewed using the information currently on file. Failure to respond may result in a reduction or denial of funding.**

Should you wish to cancel your Form 471 application, or any of your individual funding requests, please clearly indicate in your response that it is your intention to cancel an application or funding request(s); along with the Form 471 application number(s) and/or funding request number(s), and the complete name, title and signature of the authorized individual.

A copy of this correspondence is being forwarded to your State E-Rate Coordinator for informational purposes only.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support of the Universal Service Program.

Nicholas C. Bazaral  
Associate Manager- PIA  
Schools & Libraries  
Phone# 973-581-7686  
Fax#973-599-6521  
E-Mail: [nbazara@sl.universalservice.org](mailto:nbazara@sl.universalservice.org)

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